

SB343 – Fair Rules, Fair Prices

Improving Accountability and Affordability in California Healthcare

Healthcare costs too much

Californians are paying more and more for our families' healthcare. Since 2002, premiums for job-based health insurance have gone up 249% - 6 times the rate of inflation.

Frustratingly, we don't know exactly why, because Kaiser Permanente, California's largest insurer, doesn't have to report data like the rest of the healthcare industry. Because they've been given special exemptions, Kaiser can hide their insurance rate information and detailed hospital financials. So when Kaiser decides

to raise their rates, no one knows whether the price hike is justified, or if it's just more Kaiser greed.

As a non-profit organization, Kaiser has continued to raise premiums for patients while recording record profits. They've got \$31 billion in reserves (more than the state of California), and they routinely post profits of over a billion dollars per quarter.

Something doesn't add up.

What does SB343 do?

Introduced by State Senator Dr. Richard Pan, SB343 will end Kaiser's special treatment and force them to play by the same rules as the rest of the healthcare industry. With more transparency, Kaiser will no longer be able to hide their financial information - and will have to report data like every other healthcare provider.

What are Kaiser's special exemptions?

Over the years, Kaiser has lobbied hard in Sacramento for special treatment. Now, Kaiser doesn't have to share their detailed

rate information, and they are allowed to report their hospital data regionally, instead of by facility like every other provider. This lets them hide local differences - say, in the cost of care in Sacramento vs. Oakland. Then Kaiser can raise rates and claim that it's justified - and nobody else has enough data to prove them wrong.

How will this affect my job?

It won't. All this bill does is force Kaiser to report their data the same way everyone else does. There shouldn't be any change to care or services resulting from greater transparency.

Fair rules for Kaiser Permanente = Fair healthcare prices for everyone.

Do you want to make sure SB343 gets passed? Visit go.seiu-uhw.org/adoptalegislator.